

Kentucky Environmental Education Council

Winter Meeting July 27, 2005

**Shaker Village
Harrodsburg, KY**

Minutes of the Meeting

Members Present: Horace Brown, Greg Higdon, Jeff Hohman, Kurt Mason,

Members not present: Frances Carter, Wade Helm, Yvonne Meichtry, Evelyn Morgan

Guest: Mark Kopp, Kentucky Department of Education (representing Robin Chandler)

Staff: Jane Eller, John LeFevre

Mr. Brown, the Council Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Since there was no quorum, no vote was taken with regard to the Spring Council meeting minutes.

Budget - Mr. LeFevre informed Council members that as of June 30, 2005 the KEEC had spent \$321,680 of allotted funds. Revenues for FYE 2005 totaled \$323,548. However, revenues did include an internship grant from the Kentucky Press Association of \$3,000 that had not yet been disbursed to our summer intern.

PRIDE Fund (HB-174) – Since the Spring Council meeting Greg Higdon has been acting with the official backing of the Kentucky Environmental Education Council to insure appropriate distribution and use of the state Pride fund created by HB 174 in the 2002 legislative session. Mr. Higdon met with Scott Smith and Lloyd Cress of the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet to find out what funding mechanisms are available to help implement the Master Plan. Mr. Higdon informed Council members he was still not clear whether the KEEC received the full interest due from the PRIDE fund in the fall of 2004. However, Scott Smith did inform Greg that the Council would receive significant funding this year.

KUPEE Legislative Proposal – The council discussed the post Austria KUPEE conference calls regarding a request to the Environmental Public and Protection Cabinet in the amount of \$1.5 million dollars that would be distributed to each KUPEE member through KEEC. Mr. Higdon expressed concern that this KUPEE request (see attached) shifts away from environmental education and the master plan to sustainability. projects. In light of these recent events a recommendation by Mr. Higdon was made to the chair requesting a meeting be set up with Secretary Wilcher and Secretary Fox to reiterate the Council's position that we keep our "eye on the prize" with respect to preservice teacher education and other components of the master plan. Ms. Eller agreed to work on setting up a meeting with the two cabinet secretaries by mid August. She also said that the proposal from KUPEE reflected discussions they had had with Secretary Wilcher while

in Austria. Secretary Wilcher is concerned about measurable environmental outcomes , which is sometimes difficult in education programs that can measure whether or not people have learned something but may not be able to predict whether that knowledge actually results in measurable environmental outcomes down the road.

Ms. Eller referred Council members to the draft proposal, which KUPÉE members planned to present to Secretary Wilcher. She asked which specific goals in the KUPÉE draft proposal Council members felt did not fit the goals of the master plan. Both Mr. Higdon and Mr. Hohman felt that bullet number one, which calls for the creation of environmental sustainability projects, was not an environmental education goal supported by the master plan. Mr. Mason and Mr. Brown agreed.

The Council directed Ms. Eller to ask KUPÉE members to remove this bullet from their proposal. Ms. Eller agreed to notify KUPÉE members of the Council's concern and request.

Commonwealth Water Education Project (CWEP) – Ms. Eller notified Council members that this project is now finally underway and that by December we should have a documentary, public service announcements and a set of workshops for local officials ready to “debut”. The entire project focuses on water quality and all products created for the media or teachers will have the same theme logo and slogan and will specifically address water quality issues in Kentucky. Next year, the project will sponsor three teacher institutes and an electronic field trip to a watershed. There is also a website. As has been mentioned before, the Council provides a \$4,000 a year match for this grant and serves as the evaluator on the project. .

Green and Healthy Schools Project – Ms. Eller informed Council members that The newly created Green Schools Task Force is progressing well. The project is still in design stages but, at this point, it is made up of two parts. In the first, students participate by completing ten inventories in which they answer questions about their school environment. Inventories address such issues as indoor air quality and energy conservation. After completing the inventories, students choose school improvement projects in each category. The Kentucky Department of Education will help align the inventories to the core content.

New or redesigned schools make up the second component of the Green and Healthy Schools program. Ms. Eller said the Task Force is working with the Kentucky Department of Education to draw up guidelines for new or renovating schools that would make the buildings healthier and more environmentally sustainable from the beginning of their use.

New National “Requirements” for Certification – The North American Association for Environmental Education has been working to create a set of national core competencies with which all state programs that wish to be nationally accredited would need to align. Ms. Eller is on the NAAEE committee drawing up these guidelines but there are still just a few that we need to add to our program to insure that we will be nationally accredited

when that time comes. She said, she and Dr. Meichtry have been working on that alignment to the new standards. Changes will be presented to the Certification Task Force for final approval..

Project WET – Mr. LeFevre informed Council members that each of the seven cooperating KUPPE centers has all the tools needed to order Project WET materials and conduct workshops in their respective regions. In addition, a Kentucky specific Project WET web page has been added to our website.

Old Business – none

New Business- Ms. Eller told Council members she planned to ask for a salary increment for Mr. LeFevre in the fall. Called an ACE Award, it is the only way to increase a staff member’s salary other than by the annual increment. .

Adjourn – Their being no further business, Mr. Brown adjourned the meeting.

Approved
Wm. Horace Brown, Chair

Date

Respectfully Submitted
Jane W. Eller
Executive Director

Date